

D8573

INSTRUCTIONS SEE OVER

SECRET

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE.

File No.

Section 1, Special Branch *Station* 8573

REPORT

Date June 17, 1938.

Subject Wong Pah Mei (王八妹), female bandit leader.

Made by and Forwarded by D.I. Crawford

Wong Pah Mei, aged about 35, a native of Kiangsu, is the sister of Tai Pao Ah Su (太宝阿苏), who was at one time a notorious bandit leader in the Taihu Lake region. He was arrested and executed some years ago. Following the execution of her brother, Wong Pah Mei took over command of the men which were under her brother and became as notorious, carrying out plundering raids on various towns and villages in the Kiangsu and Chekiang Provinces. On one occasion she was arrested by the Chinese authorities but later released through the good offices of the wife of a certain official who adopted her and persuaded her to give up the life of a bandit leader. This she partly carried out and for about two years kept a teashop in Pootung, which did a very good business because gambling was permitted in the teashop. The teashop was closed following the outbreak of the Sino-Japanese hostilities in Shanghai in August, 1937.

Following the withdrawal of the Chinese forces from the Shanghai area in November, 1937, a number of regular and irregular troops that had failed to withdraw in company with the main forces and which troops were later joined by a number of bandits, became very active in Pootung and adopted the name of mobile forces. One of the leaders of these mobile units was none other than Wong Pah Mei who was joined by one Ting Shih Shan (丁雪山), and it is estimated that they had 1,000 men at their command. They made their headquarters at Nan Jao (南桥), Pootung. (Vide Special Branch report dated April 19, 1938). At the beginning of April, 1938, the Japanese troops carried out



X. Sec. D. 8094/36

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE.

File No.

REPORT

Station,

Date 19

(2)

Subject

Made by Forwarded by

a cleaning up process in Pootung because of these units and several skirmishes took place with minor successes. Shortly after this mopping up campaign, on May 7th, a report appeared in the "Standard" and other local Chinese newspapers stating that Wong Pah Mei had been bought over by the Japanese and had arrived in Shanghai with some of her followers. It was reported that she was staying in the home of Mr. Inoue, a sectional chief of the Special Service Department of the Japanese, at No. 371, Lane 994, Dixwell Road, Hongkew. On May 10, a further report appeared in the "Standard" and other local Chinese newspapers to the effect that the majority of Wong's men, being disgusted with the attitude of their leader over her surrender to the Japanese, deserted her and only about 200 men agreed to remain with her.

From subsequent events there would appear to be some truth in the newspaper reports regarding Wong's surrender to the Japanese as on May 14, 1938, the Shanghai Municipal Police came into possession of some confidential information from a reliable source (vide Special Branch report dated May 14, 1938) that, on May 13, Wong Pah Mei attended a conference held in the New Asia Hotel, Tiendong Road, at which representatives of the Japanese military and naval authorities, Japanese consular officials and officials of the "Reformed Government" and the Shanghai Municipal Administrative Office attended. At the conference a number of resolutions were discussed and passed, including one to the effect that "the remnants of Miss Wong Pah-mei and Colonel Ting Shih Shan in the Taihu Lake region be

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE.

File No.

REPORT
(3)

.....Station,

Date.....19

Subject.....

Made by.....Forwarded by.....

reorganized and incorporated in a "Pacantui" corps, the
arms to be supplied by the Japanese military. "

On May 7th, 1938, a photograph showing Wong Fah
Mei at a dinner with certain Japanese subjects in a
restaurant, was reproduced in the "Shanghai Times."

Cape to D.C. (Crim.) ~~FILE~~

DB 7/6

F. A. to D. C. (Sp. Br.)

D.C. (Special Branch)

C. Crawford
D. I.